

**The New Mexico Environment Department  
Surface Water Quality Bureau**

**Proposed Revision to the New Mexico Continuing Planning Process Document to  
Establish Implementation Procedures for the Antidegradation Policy in the New  
Mexico Water Quality Standards (20.6.4.8 NMAC)**

**Notice of 60-Day Public Comment Period**

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to comment on a discussion draft of a proposed revision to the New Mexico Continuing Planning Process (CPP) document in order to establish Antidegradation Policy Implementation Procedures. The CPP is a planning document adopted by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (Commission) in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) and the New Mexico Water Quality Act (Chapter 74, Article 6 NMSA 1978).

States are required under the federal Clean Water Act to adopt water quality standards in order to protect water quality and to forward the objectives of the Act to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Nation's waters. The Commission under authority of the New Mexico Water Quality Act has adopted Water Quality Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters (20.6.4 NMAC) for the State of New Mexico. A required element of the water quality standards is the Antidegradation Policy. The Commission's policy is found at 20.6.4.8.A NMAC. The water quality standards at 20.6.4.8.E. describe implementation of the policy and state: "[These] implementation activities are supplemented by detailed antidegradation review procedures developed under the state's continuing planning process." The purpose of the modification to the CPP is to establish these antidegradation review procedures.

The public comment period on the discussion draft begins November 12, 2003 at 8:00 AM MST and will end January 12, 2004 at 5:00 PM MST. Formal comments for inclusion in the public record must be submitted in writing to the SWQB at the address below, attention Glenn Saums. If possible, please submit an electronic copy as well; the SWQB will provide a confirmation of receipt for electronic mail submissions.

For additional information, contact Glenn Saums, Point Source Regulation Section Program Manager, SWQB, at (505) 827-2827, by email at <glenn\_saums@nmenv.state.nm.us>, or by mail at PO Box 26110, Santa Fe, NM 87502. A copy of the discussion draft is available upon request and will be posted on the SWQB website at <<http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb>> on November 12, 2003.